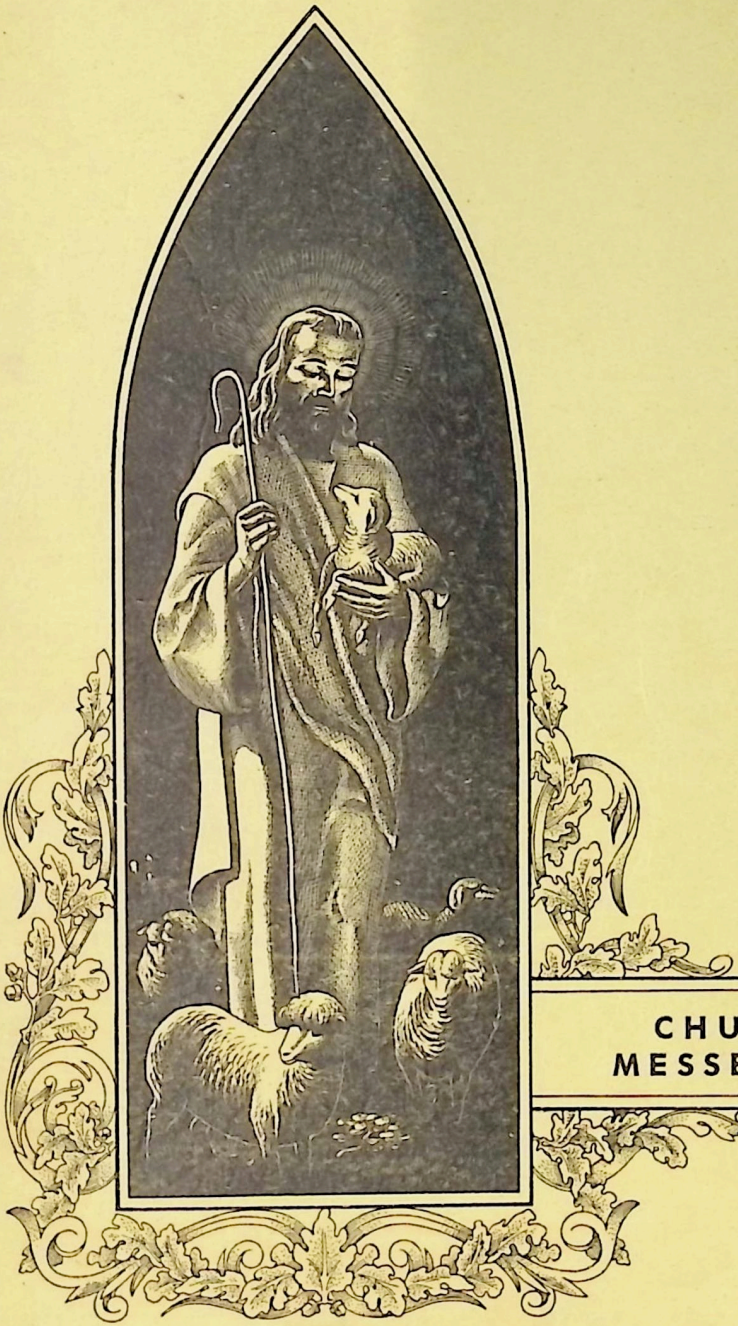

CHURCH MESSENGER

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The Church

CHURCH HISTORY

Five years after the first settlers crossed the Mississippi River into Dubuque, Iowa, a Mr. John Gaylord settled in Section seven of Penn township. He was the first man to settle in the vicinity of what is now called North Liberty. Mr. Gaylord came here during the summer of 1838. A year later he was followed by the Dennison brothers and John Hadley from Ohio and Illinois. At present there are several descendants of the J. B. Dennison family attending this church. They are the Cora Anthony, Leonard Sentman families, and Miss Myrtle Work. The Dennison brothers and John Hadley made their way into the new territory in wagons drawn by oxen. They stayed a short time with John Gaylord while they got out logs and built two cabins. J. B. and A. C. Dennison broke the first furrows on their new claim. The land lay about a mile northwest of the town of North Liberty. The plowing of the land secured their right to the land. This was the second claim in the township. In 1839 there were only three cabins and these early pioneers were banded together to conquer the frontier of Iowa.

The community grew slowly but in due time began to function. The first sermon preached among the people was some time before 1841. The first marriage that was performed was in 1842. By March 1846 the community was set apart as a civil township to be known as Penn township. In a log schoolhouse near Chapman's, the first election was held. The first meeting of the board of trustees was held in a schoolhouse in what now is known as the town of North Liberty. This community was called North Bend. It received its name from a bend in the Iowa River several miles to the north of the community.

Methodist preachers came with the first settlers into this little community ninety miles from Dubuque. Sometime before 1844, Elder Limback, a Methodist preacher delivered the first sermon in what then was called Wilson's Grove, a mile or more just east of our present church. In 1841 just three years after the arrival of the first settlers, the North Bend Methodist Class was organized with seven members. The Reverend J. L. Kirkpatrik of the Iowa Missions was the pastor in charge as the organizing class met in a cabin in Section eight. For twelve years this society continued to hold its meetings in various cabins. Except for an occasional missionary, the Methodists had no competition in "soul saving" for about six years. Shortly before 1847, Missionaries for the Church of God came and were successful in organizing a church with six members. Their membership increased rapidly and by 1868 they were able to build a $4,000. church. The Zion Evangelical Lutheran church was organized in 1850 with a membership of eleven. By 1861 they built a church costing $1200.

In the early part of the year 1853 the Methodist people began planning to build a church of their own. With a caravan of ox teams they crossed the prairies to Muscatine for lumber to be used in the building of their first church which was a small structure costing $700. Today that first Methodist church is still standing and is used as a granary on a farm south of North Liberty. The land upon which this first church stood was purchased from Mr. John Wilson for the sum of $10.00, and now this is the same spot where the present church stands. The sum of ten dollars was paid by the following trustees: John W. Alt, Jacob Alt, George Wein, and others.

By 1855 the church was dedicated by Reverend George B. Wilson who had built the first church in Iowa City. This gave the Methodist church recognition and North Bend appears in the conference minutes for the first time in 1856. After the organization was well underway, a missionary spirit began to arise. In 1864 fourteen people made missionary gifts in the name of the Muscatine District which is a division of the Iowa Conference Missionary Society.

This was our first Missionary Society. In 1907 during the pastorate of Reverend J. W. Hamilton, the Ladies' Aid was organized. Mrs. Mary Colony was elected president. Those who were members and are still living (1951) are: Mrs. Mary Colony, Mrs. Emma Alt, Mrs. Iowa, Lentz, and Mrs. Cora Young. There were fifty-eight members in 1918. In 1895 the Methodist Church had increased its members and now began to talk of a larger church. Under the leadership of our pastor, Reverend Wade Barclay, the present church was built. The church membership continued to increase and more Sunday School rooms were badly needed. Under the supervision of our pastor, Reverend J. H. Krenmeyer, the basement was enlarged.

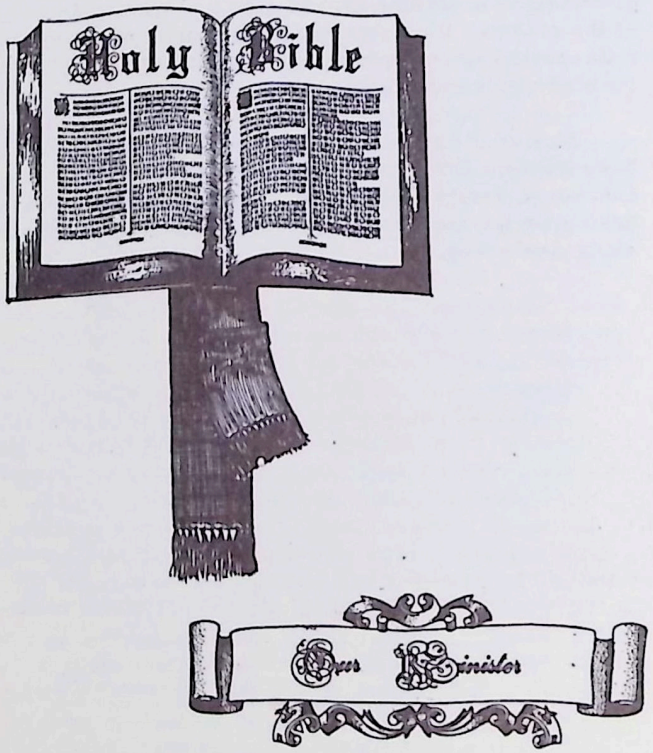
A great spiritual boost came to the church when one of its finest young women gave herself to the work of Jesus Christ in the missionary field in India; Miss Lucile Colony. She spent twenty years in India and at present time she is executive secretary of the India Division of the Board of Missions at New York City, New York.

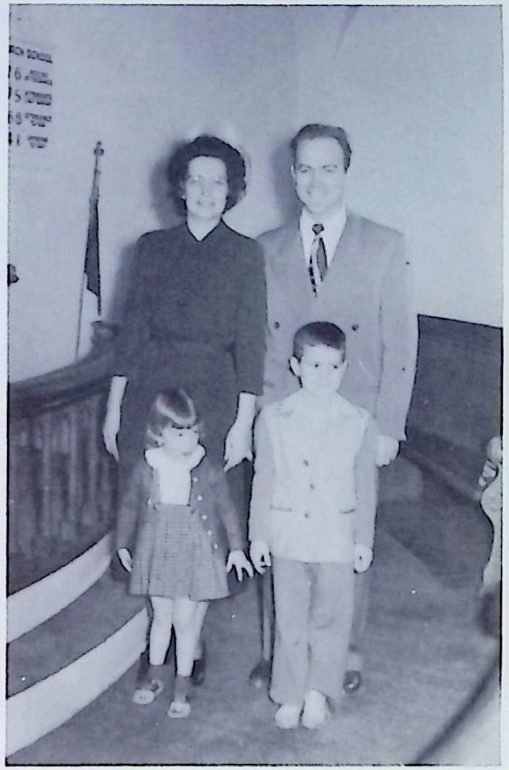
In 1922, the Lucile Colony Auxiliary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized. There were twenty-seven members. The officers were President, Mrs. L. L. Lentz; Corresponding Secretary, Eleanor Colony; Recording Secretary Mrs. Mabel Stoner; Vice-President, Mrs. Mattie Stoner; Vice-President, Mrs. Mattie Stoner; and Treasurer, Mrs. Bert Myers. Regular monthly meetings were held for eighteen years. At the end of that time the ladies' groups were organized into what we now have as the Women's Society of Christian Service (1940). The first officers of the W.S.C.S. were: President, Mrs. Verne Colony; Vice-President, Mrs. Agda Alt; Treasurer, Mrs. Irene Coglan; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mabel Snavely; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Maude Chidester; Secretary of Missionary Education, Mrs. Bert Myers; Secretary of Social Relations, Mrs. Edith Ranshaw; and Secretary of Young Women's Work, Eloise Martin.

When the parsonage in Tiffen burned down, (it was the parsonage for both the North Liberty and Tiffen churches) the property of John Croziers adjoining the church property was purchased in 1924, and it became the parsonage.

Reverend Tennant was our minister for a few years and in 1941 he supervised the installation of a new furnace. They also had the parsonage painted. When Arthur Brent was in charge, he supervised the graveling of a parking lot and also a playground back of the church. The interior of the church was also redecorated and the parsonage was improved with running water and a bathroom.

Reverend Arthur Griffen, Dorothy, his wife, and two children, Bobby and Nancy, came to North Liberty in June 1949, and the church is fortunate in having such a capable pastor who helps guide us along God's way.





REVEREND WALTER ARTHUR GRIFFEN

Entered service May, 1942, served in Quartermaster Corps, U. S. Marine Corps in San Diego, California and Hawaii. Discharged November, 1945. Entered Iowa Wesleyan College January, 1947. Received B.A. degree June, 1950. Now attending Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois. Trenton - Salem - February 1947 - June, 1948. Yarmouth - Marsh - June 1948 - June 1949. North Liberty - Tiffin - June 1949. Married Dorothy Withrow August 31, 1941, Hannibal, Missouri. Two children - Robert Arthur, March 14, 1944, San Diego, California - Nancy Lynette - July 18, 1947 - Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Administration

OFFICIAL BOARD

Trustees

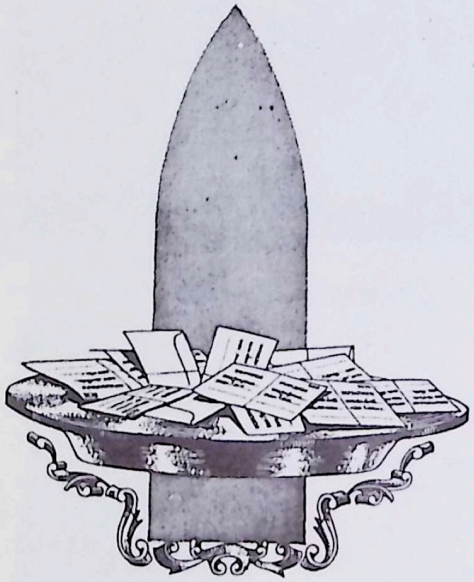
Leslie Davis
Lloyd Myers
Moreland Colony
W. A. Young
Lisle Hurlbut
Logan Myers
Frank A. Colony

Stewards

Robert Ranshaw
W. W. Young
(Honorary)
Eugene Colony
Richard Young
Lloyd Rinehart

Stewards, Continued

Carl Snavely
White Larew
Joe Alt
(Financial Secy.)
Frank Zeller
(Treas. Cur. Exp.)
Lester Means
Wayne Krouth
Emil Novy
Frank E. Colony
Mrs. Joe Alt
(Communion)
Mrs. Eugene Colony
(Pres. WSCS)
Homer Riggle
(S.S. Superintendent)



Church Budget

TENTATIVE BUDGET
North Liberty, 1951-52

A. Ministerial Support

Pastor's Salary	$1700.	
Pastor's Expense Account	200.	
Conference Claims	357.	
Total		$2257.

B. Benevolences

World Service	$ 278.	
Advance Special	300.	
Total		$ 578.

C. Local Expenses

Janitor	$ 275.	
Music	20.	
Fuel	250.	
Utilities	60.	
Insurance	65.	
Repairs	500.	
Conference Minutes	15.	
Miscellaneous	115.	
Total		$1300.

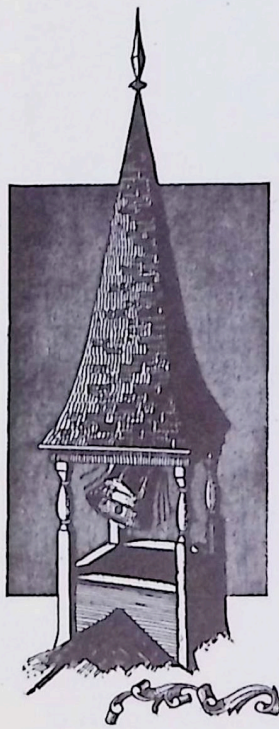
Recapitulation

Ministerial Support	$2257.	
Benevolences	578.	
Local Expenses	1300.	
Grand Total		$4135.

The Choir

CHOIR

Mabel Snavely - Pianist
Irene Coglan
Elma Colony
Beaulah Riggle
Norma Myers
Effie Myers
Melva Colony
Maxine Myers
Arthur Griffen
Carl Snavely
Edgar Colony
Lloyd Myers
Leslie Davis
Shirley Coglan
Melvin Deemy



Organizations

WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

President - Melva Colony
Vice-President - Irene Coglan
Recording Secretary - Erma Sentman
Assistant Secretary - Ethel Thompson
Promotion Secretary - Agnes Hurlbut
Spiritual Life Secretary - Effie Myers
Secretary of Missions - Anna Parks
Secretary of C. S. R. & L. C. A. - Helen Davis
Treasurer - Mabel Stoner

MEMBERS

Agda Alt, Emma Alt, Jessie Anderson, Ada Andersen, Margaret Andersen, Emily Albright, Irene Coglan, Daisy Chipman, Ellen Colony, Elma Colony, Mary Colony, Melva Colony, Nina Colony, Marie Cummings, Helen Davis, Dale Dever, Angeline Gordon, Jessie Green, Dorothy Griffen, Mary Herring, Agnes Hurlbut, Betty Krouth, Vera Larew, Nora LeGrand, Iowa Lentz, Francis Martin, Elsie Martin, Emily Means, Harriet Moser, Bess Myers, Effie Myers, Mabel Myers, Norma Myers, Erma Novak, Gertrude Novy, Anna Parks, Edith Ranshaw, Evelyn Ranshaw, Betty Lou Ranshaw, Ruth Rarick, Beulah Riggle, Erma Sentman, Eloise Snavely, Mabel Snavely, Mabel Stoner, Ethel Thompson, Delores Wells, Ruth White, Lillian Winger, Mae Wolfe, Florence Wolfe, Myrtle Work, Beverly Young, Cora Young, Grace Young, Sara Young, Georgie Zeller, Margaret Zahradenk.

EFFIE MYERS | FLORENCE WOLFE | EDITH RAMSHAW

The Women's Society of Christian Service celebrated the tenth anniversary of its organization. There were fifty-one charter members. We now have a membership of fifth-six members.

The presidents who served during this period were: Verne Colony, Edith Ranshaw, Agda Alt, Gertrude Novy, Bess Myers, Vera Larew and Melva Colony.

The members pictured above attended the most meetings. Florence Wolfe attending every meeting for four years. Mary Colony, Irene Coglan, Sara Young, Myrtle Work, Vera Larew, Mabel Stoner, Gertrude Novy, Elma Colony, Elise Martin and Agnes Hurlbut also had good attendance.

They celebrated their anniversary by taking their birthday cake and meeting with the members of the Oxford Church on September 20. On October 11, we entertained fourteen members of the West Liberty Women's Society of Christian Service at our church. They brought the birthday cake and we sang, "Happy Birthday Dear Neighbors." Candles were lighted for the completion of our goals.

M. Y. F.

Billy Riggle
Jean Novy
Shirley Hurlbut
Dale Riggle
Betty Brant
Ivan Riggle
Dorothy Dever
Richard Zaiser
Dale Moser
Bob Rarick
Mary Ellen Sentman
Lloyd Colony
Joan Sentman
Jack Moser

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Chamberlin are long time members of the North Liberty Methodist Church. He was born September 10, 1858 and she was born February 16, 1860. They celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary April 16, 1950. They have always lived in this community until a few years ago when failing health made it necessary for them to become residents of the Putnam Nursing Home In Iowa City. Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlin have been leading citizens of this community and faithful workers in the church. They have traveled extensively - having visited every state in the union, also Canada and Mexico.

Sunday School

NURSERY

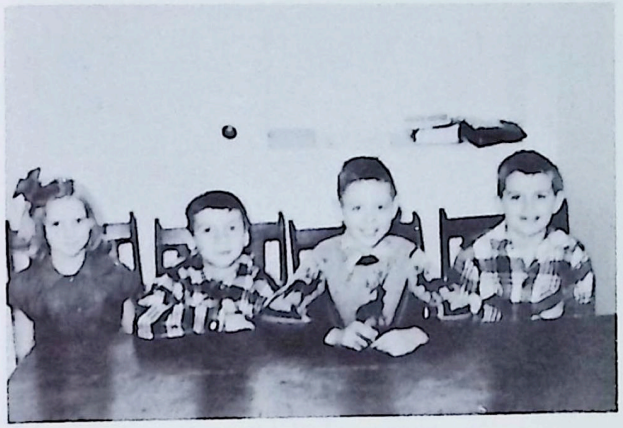
Francis Martin, Teacher
Steve Koser
Nancy Griffen
Jill Ranshaw
Robert Alt
Timmy Ranshaw
Allan Chipman

BEGINNERS

Agnes Hurlbut, Teacher
Carolyn Chipman
Judy Thompson
Richard Snavely
Delbert Myers
Chucky Sharpe
Freddy Martin
Danny Dever
Rosemary Young

PRIMARY

Ruth Rarick, Teacher
Arthur Alt
Martha Dever
Marianne Myers
Kay Sentman
Keith Snavely
Ruth Zaiser
Alice Parks
Bobbie Griffen



PRIMARY

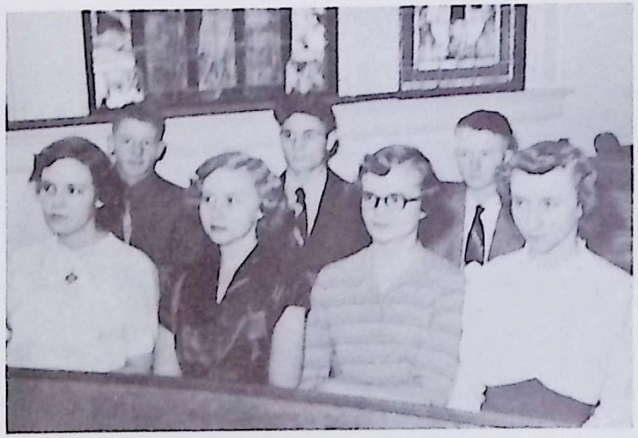
Elsie Martin, Teacher
George Alt
Gary Chipman
Jerry Martin
Johnny Myers
Billy Thompson
Patricia Patterson
Sara Dever
Gloria Moser
Rickey Deemy

JUNIOR 24

Edgar Colony, Teacher
Evelyn Hurlbut
Beryl Martin
Jack Rarick
Michael Myers
Jerry Zaiser
Karen Koser
Jean Patterson

INTERMEDIATE

Erma Sentman, Teacher
Phyllis Miller
Elizabeth Alt
Jean Novy
Mary Ellen Sentman
Bob Rarick
Lloyd Colony
Billy Riggle
Dale Moser
Bob Koser



HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

Dale Dever, Teacher
Dale Riggle
Shirley Hurlbut
Betty Brant
Joan Sentman
Sue Benge
Dorothy Dever
Ivan Riggle
Jack Moser
Richard Zaiser

FIRESIDE CIRCLE

Elma Colony, Teacher
Lloyd Myers
Norma Myers
Carl Snavely
Eloise Snavely
Homer Riggle
Beaulah Riggle
Joe Alt
Agda Alt
Lloyd Rinehart
Margaret Rinehart
Richard Young
Grace Young
Anna Parks
Floyd Thompson
Ethel Thompson
Ruth Rarick
Culver Young
Bruce Young
Beverly Young
Guy Myers
Maxine Myers
Carrol Chipman
Daisy Chipman
Robert Ranshaw
Betty Ranshaw
George Ranshaw
Bevelyn Ranshaw
Robert Zaiser
Ethel Zaiser
Leonard Sentman
Irma Sentman
Wayne Krouth
Betty Krouth
Barbara Burdick
Elsie Martin
Mort Koser
Ruth Koser
Fred Dever
Dale Dever
Zell Anderson
Margaret Anderson
Edgar Colony
Ellen Colony
Mary Colony
John Colony
Melva Jean Colony
Frank E. Colony
Margaret Novak
Dorothy Croy
Pauline Sharpe
Bette Coglan
Dean Coglan
Dick Wells
Dolores Wells

TRUE BLUE

Effie Myers, Teacher
Bert Myers
Frank Zeller
Georgie Zeller
Leslie Davis
Helen Davis
Milo Novak
Erma Novak
Lisle Hurlbut
Agnes Hurlbut
Eugene Colony
Melva Colony
Frank Colony
Elma Colony
Moreland Colony
Nina Colony
Logan Myers
Bess Myers
Alexander Young
Sarah Young
Raymond Snavely
Mabel Snavely
Lee Ranshaw
Edith Ranshaw
Mabel Z. Stoner
Byron Coglan
Irene Coglan
W. W. Young
Cora Young
White Larew
Vera Larew
Emil Novy
Gertrude Novy
Lela Turkal
Angeline Gordon
Lester Means
Emily Means
L. L. Lentz
Iowa Lentz
Grace George
Jo Von Stein
Bert Martin
Francis Martin
Marie Brant
Harriet Moser
Howard Anderson
Oda Anderson
Mary Colony
Emma Alt

We are the True Blue Class of our Church School
And have had a number of years to follow the Golden Rule.
We are filled with satisfaction and joy on this Rally Day
When we see all the loved ones we have taught to pray.
It may be a son, or a daughter or a grandchild there
That we have knelt with in that sweet hour of prayer.
To know that they have grown to be men and women strong
Working together to fight evil and all things wrong.

Some are teachers, some are preachers, and some are leaders too,
But a lot of us are here, just God's teachings to pursue.
The lessons we learned from those people who lived so long ago
Grow dearer and clearer as through this life we go.
In the story of Jacob and Esau, we learned it is all in vain
To cheat and deceive, to achieve material gain.
Moses, the great leader and law maker of long ago
Reminds us of the Ten Commandments, as you all know.
Naomi and Ruth also are very dear to the heart
For their love and devotion, would not let them part.
Samuel led his country at a time of great need
Can we get help for ourselves, or our country as his books we read?

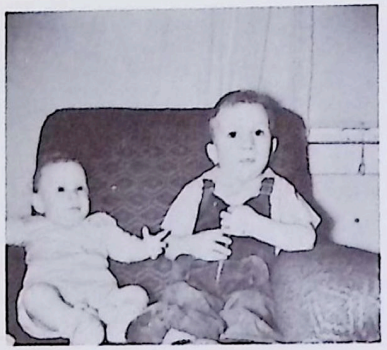
David so very human, yet a most beloved king
Shows God needs all of us, if to his teachings we cling.
Elijah firmly fought against evil forces of his day
May we have more like him, upholding right and God, we pray.
Ezra was a great teacher of God's word, so we are told.
Are we doing our best to teach both young and old?
John, a great preacher, says, "Of our sins we must repent."
Are we willing to follow God's teachings and be content?
Mary, the mother of Jesus, sets an example for all of us --
Her simplicity, love and devotion, and above all her trust.
Simon Peter, like so many of us, in a weak moment, his Christ denied,
But he repented, and by his vow of loyalty to Christ, did abide.

John Mark shows us if in our first venture, we do not succeed,
In God's work there are many more places of great need.
Traditions are alright if we don't find something better;
James found it best to follow Jesus's teachings to the letter.
Paul a great Christian martyr, missionary and to all a friend
Shows that to spreading the gospel, there is no end.

Now do all of you come to Sunday School each Sabbath Day
To study God's word and to sing and to pray?
If we could have honest co-operation from every Sunday School member
We might be able to do things the world would be glad to remember.
In this time of war and strife and sin
Let's take a new stand - a new life begin.

Mrs. Leslie Davis

BAPTISMS



Robert Kendall Ranshaw 12-24-50
Timothy Marshall Ranshaw 12-24-50
Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ranshaw

Janet Katherine Young 9-3-50
Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Young

Keith Allen Krouth 3-17-50

Sherry Sue Krouth 3-17-50
Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Krouth

BAPTISMS - 1950

Wayne Krouth
Betty Krouth
Margaret Novak

TRANSFERS - 1950

Nina Colony
Melvin Deemy
Mildred Deemy
Morton Koser
Ruth Koser
Purl Parks
Anna Parks
Milo Novak
Erma Novak

MARRIAGES

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Colony unwrapping their gifts after their wedding on April 8, 1950.

NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

Harlan Alt
Lila Alt
Erwin Connelly
Helen Connelly
June James
Gregg Daniels
Bernice Keller
Madeline Sydebotham
Charles Colony
Evelyn Kuchel
Lucille Martin
Maurice Martin
Anna Parizek
Ruth Patterson
George Ranshaw, Sr.

PREPARATORY MEMBERS

Elizabeth Alt
George Alt
Arthur Alt
Joan Agda Alt
John Alt
Carolyn Kay Chipman
Alan Ray Chipman
Lloyd Colony
Robert Griffen
Nancy Griffen
Evelyn Hurlbut
Roy Koser
Robert Koser
Karen Koser
Stephen Koser
Keith Krouth
Sherry Krouth
Beryl Martin
Gerald Martin
Michael Myers
John Myers
Marianna Myers
Jean Novy
Orrin Parks
Alice Parks
Jill Ranshaw
Timothy Ranshaw
Robert Ranshaw
Robert Rarick
John Rarick
Kathryn White
Neal Wray
LeRoy Wray
Kathryn Wray
Rosemary Young
Janet Young
Richard W. Young

RESIDENT MEMBERS

Joe Alt
Agda Alt
Emma Alt
Dale Anderson
Jessie Anderson
Zell Anderson
Margaret Anderson
Frank Berry
Ira Chamberlin
Ella Chamberlin
Dr. J. M. Chittum
Carroll Chipman
Daisy Chipman
Byron Coglan
Irene Coglan
Shirley Coglan
Dean Coglan
Eugene Colony
Melva Colony
John Colony
Mary E. Colony
Melva J. Colony
Frank Colony
Elma Colony
Austin Colony
Edgar Colony
Ellen Colony
Mary Colony
Moreland Colony
Nina Colony
Frank E. Colony
Marion Colony
Leslie Davis
Helen Davis
Melvin Deemy
Mildred Deemy
Fredrick Dever
Delma Dever
Angeline Gordon
Jessie Green
Merwyn Green
Arthur Griffen
Dorothy Griffen
Glen Herring
Mary Herring
Lisle Hurlbut
Agnes Hurlbut
Shirley Hurlbut
Inez Koser
Morton Koser
Ruth Koser
Wayne Krouth
Betty Krouth
White Larew
Vera Larew
Harold Larew
Alva LeGrand
Nora LeGrand
Lester LeGrand
Willard LeGrand
Lizzie Lentz
Lewis Lentz
Iowa Lentz
Francis Martin
Elsie Martin
Lester Means
Emily Means
Isaac Myers
Ivy Myers
Bert Myers
Effie Myers
Glenn Myers
Mabel Myers
Maxine Myers
Lloyd Myers
Norma Myers
Logan Myers
Bess Myers

RESIDENT MEMBERS

Milo Novak
Irma Novak
Margaret Novak
Emil Novy
Gertrude Novy
Purl Parks
Anna Parks
George Ranshaw
Bevelyn Ranshaw
Edith Ranshaw
Marcella Pattison
Evelyn Ranshaw
Betty Ranshaw
Robert Ranshaw
Ruth Rarick
Homer Riggle
Beaulah Riggle
Lloyd Rinehart
Margaret Rinehart
Carl Snavely
Eloise Snavely
Raymond Snavely
Mabel Snavely
Mabel Stoner
William Stoner
Aila Stoner
Lela Turkal
Lloyd White
Ruth White
Raymond White
Florence Wolfe
Mary Wolfe
Myrtle Work
Everette Wray
Anna Wray
Alexander Young
Sarah Young
Culver Young
Wilbur Young
Bruce Young
Beverly Young
Richard Young
Grace Young
Cora Young
William Young
Frank Zeller
Georgie Zeller

Pictured above are some of the women who helped prepare and serve the dinners for S.U.I. football fans passing through town on their way to the games in Iowa City.

Calendar of Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Church services were held each Friday evening during the Lenten season conducted by Reverend Griffen.

A week of evangelistic services conducted during April by the Reverend Herbert Loomis of New York, who came here from Moline, Illinois where he was attending The School of Evangelism.

Ellen Novy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Novy and Edgar Colony, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Colony had a church wedding, April 8, 1950.

A Mother-Daughter Banquet was held in May sponsored by the Fireside Circle Sunday School Class and Attended by over one hundred. Mrs. J. A. Swisher of Iowa City was the speaker.

The Fireside Circle Class also sponsored a Father-Son Banquet in June with over one hundred in attendance, the speaker being Leonard Raffensberger, football coach from S.U.I.

The Daily Vacation Bible School was held from June 5 to June 16 with fifty-two enrolled. Student Day was observed with a program by the pupils from Bible School.

The North Liberty M.Y.F. holds joint meetings with the Tiffin M.Y.F. every Sunday evening. Their sponsor is Mrs. Frank Colony.

In August the M.Y.F. sponsored an Ice Cream Social serving homemade ice cream, pie and cake.

In November they also sponsored a chili supper at the church parlors.

A worship center was completed in the church parlors by the M.Y.F. for their services. The walnut cross and candlesticks were made and presented

to the young people by W. W. Young.

A reception for Reverend and Mrs. Griffen and their children was held in June. A co-operative supper was enjoyed by the group. After an enjoyable program, a chest of silverware was presented to the honorees.

In the fall the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Fireside Circle Sunday School Class served dinners to football fans going to the S.U.I. games. They served four in all, realizing a sum of approximately $600.

A Christmas Pageant entitled, "The Message of The Christmas Angels" was presented by the M.Y.F.

"Work Days" were held at the church in the fall, at which time the church was painted, carpenter work done, cement repaired and trees trimmed.

There were many improvements made on the church property during the year. The Church parlors were greatly improved by the laying of asphalt tile on the floor and painting of the ceiling. The kitchen was modernized with the addition of a bottled gas water heater and stove, also a new sink. A modern bath room was installed and recently new folding tables and chairs were purchased for the church parlors.

The Women's Society of Christian Service had a successful year meeting the second Wednesday of each month. We had pot-luck dinners, quilted during the winter and sponsored several projects. Among these were special Easter and Mother's Day services, a family night supper in April and the annual Thanksgiving supper. Mrs. Glenn Myers, secretary of the friendship committee, sent one hundred and fifty cards to members and friends of the church and community during 1950.

Among the interesting and varied programs of the year were several guest speakers. Mrs. Louis Penningroth, of Iowa City, spoke of her month's visit in Europe inspecting work carried on by the "Friends Church." Mrs. Dayton Stoner of Albany, New York told us of the magazine GUIDE POST and the prominent contributors to it. Mrs. Henry Lampe of Coralville related her experiences as a wife of a Korean missionary. Mrs. L. G. Lawyer of Iowa City gave a book report on "Assignment - Near East," by James Batil which stressed the effect of the work of the missions.

The annual "Thank-offering" service was held in May with Mrs. C. S. Williams of Iowa City as guest speaker.

WALSWORTH
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